

June 9, 2010

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Regarding: Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment

Honorable Committee Members:

There is a dire need for a Tier 5 extension of unemployment benefits.

I lost my job in February of 2009. I have worked 43 years in the Financial Services profession in **Senior Management (Vice President)**. I am an accomplished professional with a college degree. I continue to search for positions constantly and have applied for over **15,000 jobs**. **During this period, I have had only 3 interviews.** Even when a job becomes available, **it seems more and more that no one will hire me because of my age and my level of experience.** It also seems that **the preponderance of positions fall into the "contract" or "temporary" classifications** which mean there would be **no benefits offered** even if I was selected.

Businesses and firms are simply NOT, I repeat NOT, hiring despite their press releases. The NEWEST and perhaps *most hurtful twist in big business hiring practices now includes the following:*

"...In a current job posting on The People Place, a job recruiting website for the telecommunications, aerospace/defense and engineering industries, an anonymous electronics company in Angleton, Texas, advertises for a "Quality Engineer." Qualifications for the job are the usual: computer skills, oral and written communication skills, light to moderate lifting. *But red print at the bottom of the ad says, "Client will not consider/review anyone NOT currently employed regardless of the reason."* In a nearly identical job posting for the same position on the Benchmark Electronics website, the red print is missing. But a human resources representative for the company confirmed to HuffPost that the The People Place ad accurately reflects the company's recruitment policies. Ads asking the unemployed not to apply are easy to find. A Craigslist ad for assistant restaurant managers in Edgewater, N.J. specifies, **"Must be currently employed."** Another job posting for a tax manager at an unnamed "top 25 CPA firm" in New York City contains the same line in all caps. **A company's choice to ignore unemployed applicants and recycle the current workforce ignores the effect of the recession on millions of highly-qualified workers and could prolong the unemployment crisis..."**

It is VERY discouraging out here. I know I will never return to the income level I was at when I was laid off and have lowered my salary expectations over 70% with recruiters, etc. to no avail. ***We have cashed in my 401K and depleted our savings just to keep our house. We have had to choose most weeks between medicine and food.*** We tried to get assistance from **Wells Fargo** for our mortgage but have been tied up in paper-documentation "hell" for over 4 months. We send what is requested, they claim to never have received it, we send it again, blah, blah, blah. Their attitude on the phone is sometimes very offensive and hurtful as if I caused the financial position I am now in.

I will be ending my Tier 4 extension before the end of September. If there is no Tier 5 available, I really don't know what we will do.

There is a dire need for a Tier 5 extension of Unemployment Benefits. The fact that the national unemployment rate remains so high, ours here in Kentucky is still over 10%. The current news stating that some many people have been hired is deceptive – the numbers quoted include temporary workers hired to conduct Census responsibilities. The true unemployment rate including discouraged workers who are no longer receiving any benefits is probably around 25% and that will only grow once the temporary Census positions are done – this forebodes of an emergency situation!

People on Unemployment who were laid off due to no fault of their own are the victims of the financial collapse caused by the greedy and irresponsible actions of the banking, insurance and manufacturing industries. Yet many of the aforementioned industries saw fit to award themselves billions of dollars in bonuses after receiving Bailout money.

Please put partisan politics aside, do what is right and help us with a Tier 5 extension of unemployment benefits. Many of us have no where else to turn. Trying to contact Senator Mitch McConnell has been a farce and our other Senator here in KY, Senator Jim Bunning, is equally indifferent to the people he represents.

Thank you for your time.